

**E-Team: Personal Evangelism 1.01**

**Relational Theology**: Theology is the study of the divine or God. As we explore and study God we find that our God can best be described by one word: Agape or Love. Evangelism, when carried out properly, should be an expression of God’s love.

**1 John 4:7-8 (NKJV)** 7  Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8  He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

* The greatest commandments, to love God and to love our neighbor, are testaments of how important relationships are to God. So important that Jesus declared that all the Law and Prophets “hang” on these two commandments. (Matt. 22:40) In Galatians 5:14, Paul tells us that the “entire Law” is fulfilled in the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself.
* If we take our relationships with the same gravitas as scripture dictates, then Personal Evangelism becomes a high priority; because, there is not a better way of expressing love than sharing your faith. We don’t love people in order to share our faith, we share our faith because we love people.
* If heaven, a place where we joyfully spend eternity with God, is real—then Evangelism is an act of love. If hell, a place of eternal separation from God, is real—then Evangelism is an act of love. If we hold these things to be true, and we do, then connecting people to the message that will “save” them is the right and logical thing to do.

**Methodology vs Conviction:** Personal Evangelism relies heavily on conviction rather than methodology. Let me explain this: I have personally known of cases where a person from a family is saved; and they, without almost any Bible knowledge or Church background, reach out to family members and friends and effectively witness to them—bringing them into the church and into a place of faith.

* They brought people to the Lord before they knew much about the Bible. They brought people to the Lord before they knew anything about the Church. The brought people to the Lord before they took a course on Personal Evangelism. Their experience with God is so fresh that some of the information that they are sharing might be erroneous.
* So, why is their personal evangelism effective? (Because they are motivated by conviction)
  1. Who are they sharing with? (People that they know and have probably known for a long time)
  2. What are they sharing? (They are sharing what happened to them. A personal testimony of what God has done and is doing in their life)
  3. Why is this so effective? (Sharing is being done along already established lines of communication and through personal emotional connections)
* Conviction always carries more weight than methodology. You can be full of Bible knowledge and be fully trained in how to lead someone to Christ; but, you will probably not share your faith unless you believe that it is something that you should be doing.

**Personal Influence:** There have been several polls taken through the years that ask a couple of simple questions of people who are Christians: “How did you become a Christian?” “What was the greatest influence in your decision to become a Christian?” In about 90% of those polled, said that they become a Christian through the influence of a friend or a family member. If you do the math—that leaves about 10% to be reached with some other form of Evangelism.

**Four thoughts concerning the 90-10 Evangelism Spread:**

1. **It takes all of us working together to make for effective Evangelism.**

1 Corinthians 3:6-9 (NKJV) 6  I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 7  So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. 8  Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9  For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, *you are* God's building.

1. **We need to be vigilant in reaching out to friends and family members, never underestimating our personal influence.** Please note that Evangelism should start in your own home. We lose too many of our “kids” in the battle of influence.
2. **We need to work on strategies and methodologies that are more effective in connecting people to the Gospel Message.** In other words—we do not have to settle for the 10%.
3. **We need to realize the value of our own personal testimony and fully leverage it.** That means that we need to develop the presentation of our own personal testimony. *(We will specifically address this in the next session when we talk about developing your personal testimony)* **1 Peter 3:15 (NKJV)** 15  But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.

**Leverage:** *(Let’s take a moment and talk about leverage and how it applies to Evangelism)* In this context Leverage ***is influence or power used to achieve a desired result.*** It is making the most of an opportunity.

1. *What is the purpose of water baptism?*
2. *Would it be ethically right to leverage a water baptism event?*
3. *How could leverage be used in the context of a water baptismal service?*
4. *What are some practical ways to leverage a water baptismal service that could lead to opportunities for Evangelism?*

**Being Prepared:** **2 Timothy 4:2-5 (NKJV)** 2  Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3  For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4  and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5  But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

* “It is the great business of every Christian to save souls. People complain that they do not know how to take hold of this matter. Why, the reason is plain enough; they have never studied it. They have never taken the proper pains to qualify themselves for the work. If you do not make it a matter of study, how you may successfully act in building up the kingdom of Christ, you are acting a very wicked and absurd part as a Christian.”   
  ― [**Charles Finney**](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4645522.Charles_Grandison_Finney)
* **Getting Prepared:** *There are some practical steps we need to take in order to be prepared for opportunities of Evangelism.*
  1. **Prepare and fully leverage your personal testimony.** *(We will be using Campus Crusade’s Approach)*
  2. **Learn some basic Bible truths that support your Christian testimony.** *(Start with the Roman’s Road and then consistently add to your knowledge base)*
  3. **Maintain the mindset of an Evangelist when in public places.** *(Learn how to “see” opportunities to share your faith)*
  4. **Pray for opportunities to share your faith.** *(Understand that the Holy Spirit will use those who make themselves available)*
  5. **Be involved in Evangelism Projects and Programs.** *(Stay involved in an E-Team or Ministry Team that is building bridges to non-believers)*

**Wrap-up: Next week we will start the first leg of preparing a personal testimony. We would like to take these testimonies all the way to filming them and using them as a part of our corporate testimony as a church.**

**Possible Project: Giving away Bibles to anyone who doesn’t have one in Leander/Cedar Park.**

1. How would we get the word out into the community?
2. What organization would need to be in place?
3. How would we leverage this for Evangelism?
4. How would we fund it?
5. What kind of training would be involved?
6. How would we deliver the Bibles?